

Pete Stein
216 Mill Street, Box B
Gallatin Gateway, Mt. 59730

Dear House Natural Resources Committee

Re: HB 359 --- HB 77 --- HB 313

My name is Pete Stein . I'm an architect and my partner and I live and work on what is the main street and access through the small town of Gallatin Gateway 12 miles to the South of Bozeman .

Gallatin Gateway is similar to many other little towns peppered all over Montana --- It is unincorporated, lacking in basic infrastructure , and perhaps most importantly, lacking tools to immediately address a major game changing impact.

ONE SUCH GAME CHANGING IMPACT INVOLVES GRAVEL MINING

The main street through our town has become a major mine haul route for the ever expanding gravel pits one mile to the west.--- See attachments A and B--- A street becoming a mine haul route can easily seal a town core's fate and kill any future incentive to improve the town.

What used to be a pedestrian friendly street is now outright dangerous not to mention the associated noise , dust, and vibration as the trucks go by and they travel right through our school zone.

The route through Gallatin Gateway was closed to gravel hauling at one point because it was determined to be structurally inadequate for the heavy loads. The solution proposed by the mine operator was to add a six inch asphalt cap to the existing street and roadway. This has been done twice now and has resulted in unusually high and steep shoulders on the route right through the center of town. These steep shoulders with their gravel edges present added hazards of slipping for bicyclers and people on foot. Things get even worse with ice in the winter as parked cars and garbage trucks have to take a run at it to back up into the traffic lane.

All of this has transpired without a single public hearing or any serious outreach to the impacted parties on the part of the DEQ or the mining owners and operators.

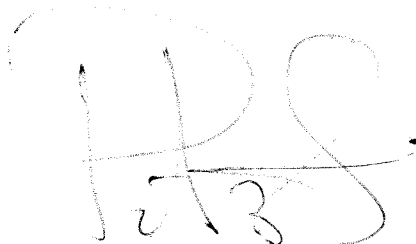
SOME POSSIBLE TOOLS

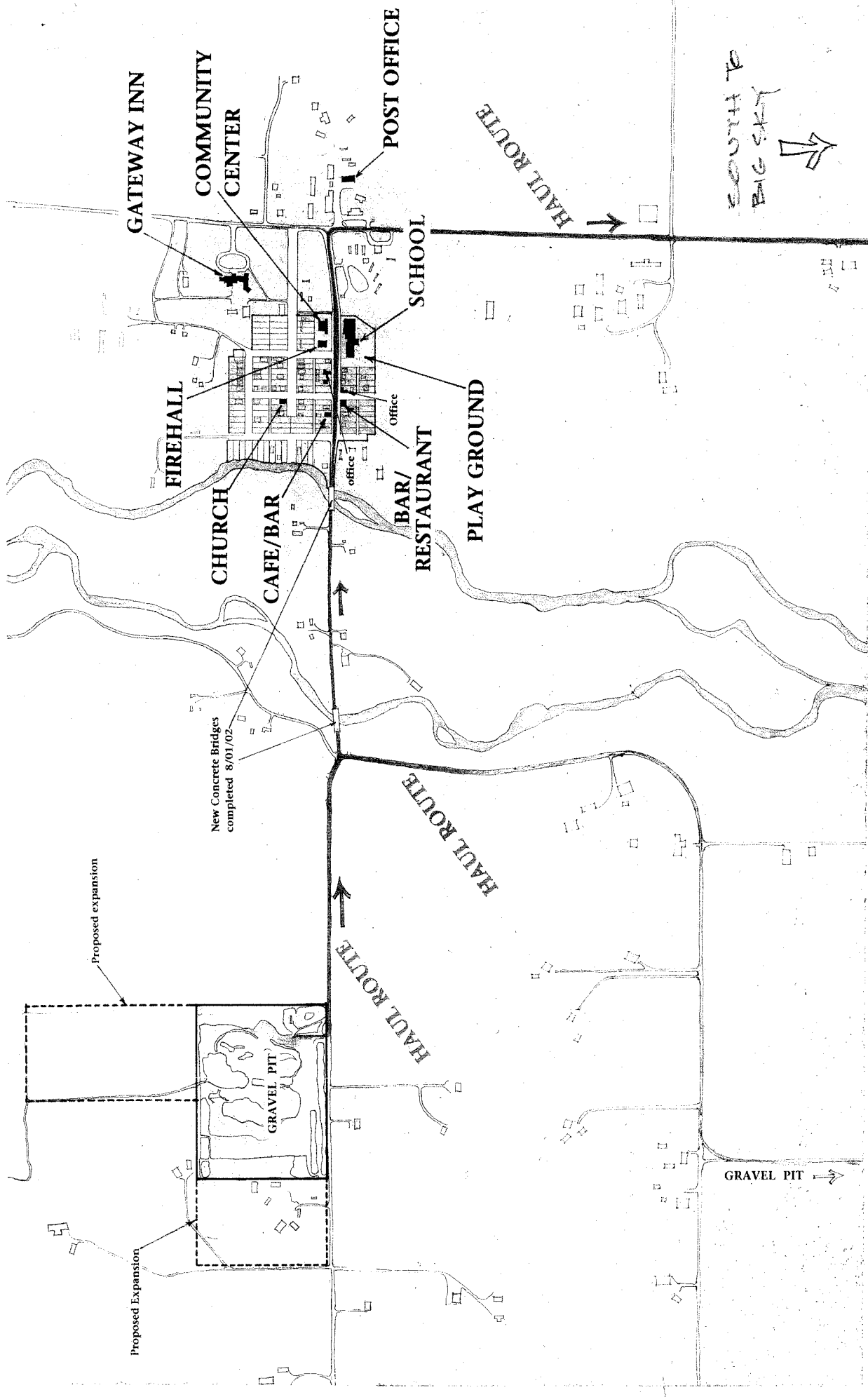
HB 313 passage in particular would be a good step in the right direction to give counties and communities some control of specific impacts of gravel mining operations. Local control at the county level is important because impacts vary considerably county to county. One county might have a water issue while another county might have more of a community conflict as I have outlined above .

The passage of any measure that provides for notice and hearings on gravel mining operations would also be beneficial but to a lesser degree than HB 313.

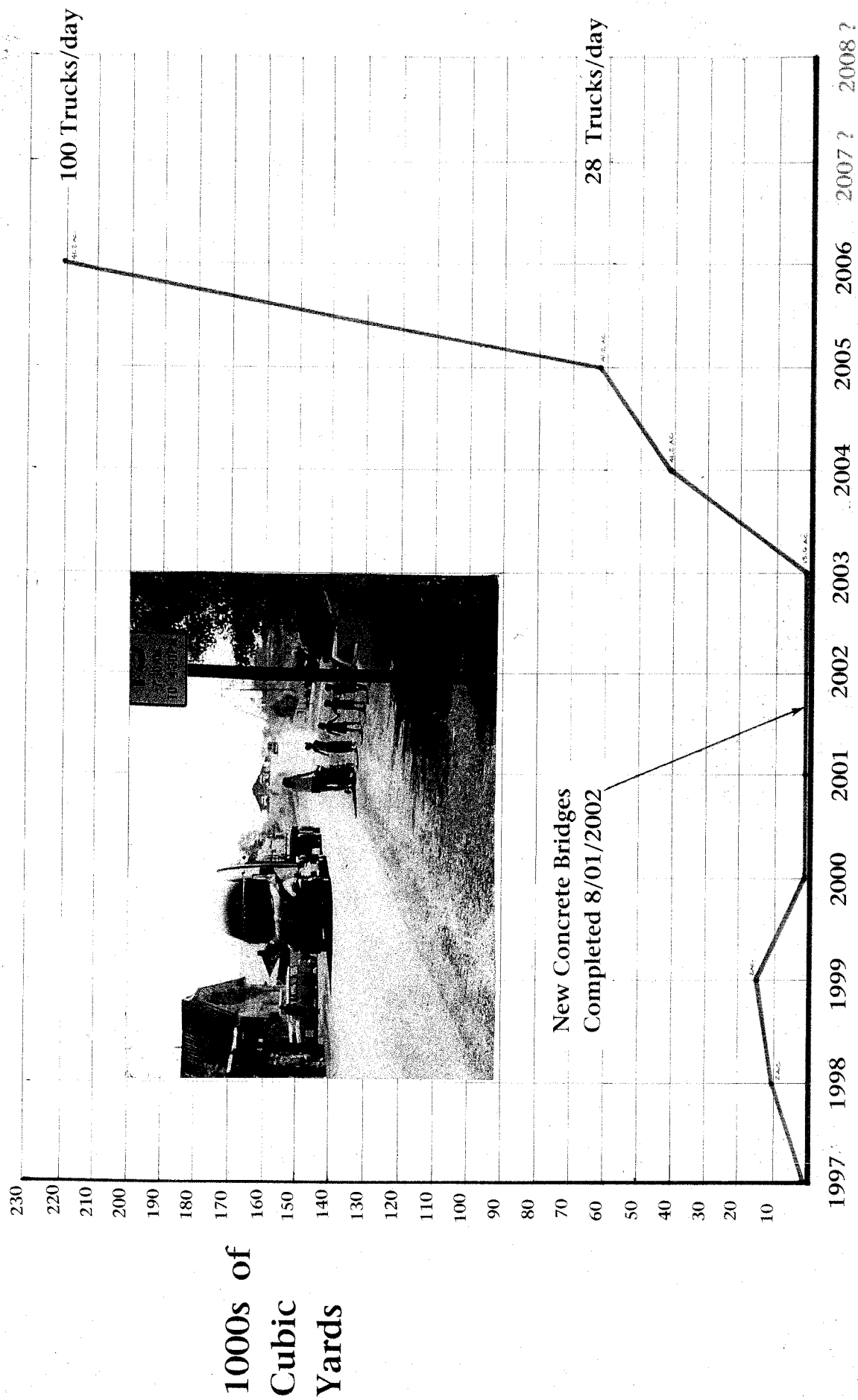
In our exuberant embrace of economic opportunities for individuals and businesses let's not forget to preserve the qualities that make Montana the unique place it has been and most of us continue to cherish. Let's preserve the little towns of Montana that are so much a part of our state's history. Let's keep our rivers clean. Let's clean up our beautiful highway corridors and ban future billboards like Maine, Vermont, Hawaii, and Alaska have done. This is where Montana's true mother lode now resides .

Sincerely Pete Stein

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Pete Stein', with a large, stylized 'P' and 'S' and the name 'Pete Stein' written below it.



Gallatin Gateway, an unincorporated town, typical of many throughout Montana, lacks the tools to effectively deal with a fast developing impact such as a gravel mining operation. A street becoming a mine-haul route can seal the town's fate and kill any future investment to improve the town.



Mill Street through Gallatin Gateway has become a mine - haul route